



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NIGHTLIFE AND NEIGHBORHOODS: A GOOD NEIGHBOR ACTION PLAN

Downtown Seattle and many other neighborhoods in Seattle have experienced a significant growth in the number of residents, businesses and late night entertainment clubs. That growth has also brought increased complaints about public disturbances, large crowds and violations of liquor control laws and the city's business license requirements by some clubs and bars.

The mayor is proposing a three step plan to insure that our neighborhoods are safe, vibrant places to live, work and socialize:

1. **Make the Joint Assessment Team permanent.** The Joint Assessment Team (JAT) was developed as a pilot project to gather information, improve communication between the City and neighborhood nightclubs and to educate owners about building code and other legal responsibilities when operating a nightclub. Over the summer approximately 85 clubs were visited after 10 p.m. with representatives of City and state departments which have regulatory authority over the use of sidewalks, the City's fire code, business license compliance, admissions tax collection, health code compliance and enforcement of state liquor laws. The pilot project revealed hundreds of violations in one or more of the areas checked during the visits. The mayor will make the JAT permanent.
2. **Scrutinize how clubs are operating and the impacts they are having on neighborhoods.** Create a database that will include information from the Liquor Control Board, the Joint Assessment Team and other sources to monitor clubs' compliance with state and local regulations. The database will allow the city to better spot emerging issues at bars, clubs and other establishments before they become larger problems for the community. Early intervention gives nightclubs and neighbors a better chance to work together to resolve issues. The database also gives the city a more systematic way to track liquor license renewals and address concerns about bars and clubs that continue to pose a threat to health and public safety.
3. **Address how the city regulates nightclubs.** A task force of club owners, neighborhood businesses and residents will research how comparable cities have resolved regulatory and public safety issues regarding nightclubs, including noise. The Task Force will then make recommendations to the City on what steps Seattle should take to keep our neighborhoods vibrant places with nighttime entertainment while addressing the concerns of the people and businesses in these neighborhoods.

